

From the desk of.....

The first weekend following the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord is the feast of the Holy Family. On this feast, the Church invites us to contemplate the beauty of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Pope St. Paul VI says that the Holy Family should, "serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplify its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing."

The Second Vatican Council emphasizes that the family, as a community of love, is "the domestic church" (*Lumen Gentium*, 11) and "the beginning and basis of human society" (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 11). From this emphasis, we learn the importance of the family in both the Church and the state.

As the domestic church, the family is to be first and foremost a place of prayer. Cardinal Arinze explains from his experience that many families do not pray together. But as the saying goes, the family that prays together, stays together. To follow the model of the Holy Family, maybe a family New Year's Resolution could be to spend time together to pray the Rosary or pray with Scripture together. It is through prayer that we encounter the God, who is love, and will enrich our families in His love.

As the basis of human society, the family has to shine forth in unity and peace. As we know in our post-Christian society, there is much division and strife in our families. Yet, we should hold fast to the power of God and what he can do to transform hearts and lives. To follow the model of the Holy Family, a resolution for the New Year is to be faithful to the family dinner. To turn off the distractions and in the midst of busy lives to have 1 night a week to sit at the table for a meal. This is how Our Lord encountered many, around the table in fellowship where the mercy of God was shared with sinners as He came to seek out and save the lost. We too can encounter God at meal times in our families where we learn forgiveness which will do wonders for family life.

Today, we ask for the intercession of the Holy Family to help our families be communities of life and love and to radiate that light to the world.

Fr. Michael

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION

JANUARY 3, 2020

9:00 am Mass followed by Adoration

3:30 pm Benediction and Reposition

6:30 pm – 6:45 pm Confessions

7:00 pm Mass followed by Adoration

9:00 pm Benediction and Reposition

UPDATE FROM FATHER NEIL

It was on the 24 December last year that I had surgery for a bowel obstruction. This was followed by a hip replacement surgery on July 22 after the first surgery collapsed. Since then the rehabilitation has been progressing and I hope to be fully ambulatory (without using a cane) soon.

I want to thank you the parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea for all your love and prayers over the course of the past year. To Father Michael and to all of you: Have a joyful Christmas and may the God who is Love keep you and all those you love close to his heart and preserve you in his friendship and peace.

Forever grateful for blessings received,

Father Neil

EXCITING NEW FAMILY MINISTRY COMING TO ST. MARY'S

Do you want to connect with like-minded parents in a welcoming and supportive environment? Do you want to learn the best in child development and how to teach the Faith? Do you want to deepen your relationship with your child? Then, join us for Early Catholic Family Life (ECFL), a new program that St. Mary's will be piloting in the Archdiocese of Toronto. ECFL welcomes families with children 0-5 years old. Its sessions facilitate parent-child interaction, parent discussion time and children's learning time.

We are excited to bring this opportunity to our community in the spring and fall of 2020 and hope that you will join us!

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)

In response to changing lifestyles and demands on time, we are offering the Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) program. If you would like to donate to the Church, or find out more about the program, please pick up a brochure from the tables at the side exits of the Church.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Every Friday at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S
MASS SCHEDULE**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD
(DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

NEW YEAR'S EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

05:00 pm - Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

09:00 am - Mass

11:00 am - Mass

NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

NO MASS

COFFEE SUNDAY

Join us in the parish hall after the morning Masses next Sunday, January 5, 2020 for friendship and refreshments.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
JOHN PAUL COUNCIL II**

THANK YOU FROM THE KNIGHTS

The Knights thank all parishioners for their ongoing support in 2019. With the money we raise at our various events, we are able to support many worthy causes in our local community and beyond.

In 2019, our council supported: St Vincent de Paul, Community Meal, The Compass, Right to Life Mississauga, Vita Centre, KofC Christian Refugee Relief Fund, Canadian Food for Children, Special Olympics Ontario, and two bursaries for graduating high school students at our parish!

We are blessed to live in this great community, and we wish you and your families all the best for a very happy and grace-filled New Year.

LINKS TO FAITH - DEC. 29, 2019

**WEEK 52 – NEXT YEAR'S
CONFESSIONS – THE SKIT GUYS**

“What if you looked back at your past New Year’s resolutions? What would you discover about yourself? Watch as several people sit down with their old journals, diaries, and resolutions to realize what they’ve done and what has been left undone.” Another great Skit Guys video!

To watch this surprisingly moving Skit Guys video, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: www.stmarystarofthesea.ca and select [Week 52 – Next Year's Confessions – The Skit Guys](#)

**THIS WEEK
AT ST. MARY'S**

SATURDAY 28TH

10:00 am Mass - †Stella Severin
Requested by the family
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY 29TH

9:00 am Mass - †Silla Pellizzer
Requested by Luigi Barbisan and family
11:00 am Mass – In Thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity

MONDAY 30TH

9:00 am Mass - Special intention of Caroline Lobo
Requested by the family

TUESDAY 31ST – NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00 pm Mass - †Angelo Fietta
Requested by the Fietta family

WEDNESDAY 1ST – NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00 am Mass - †Erma & Guido Barbisan
Requested by Franca & Rino Barbisan
11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish
NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY 2ND

NO MASS

FRIDAY 3RD

9:00 am Mass - †Frank Carroll
Requested by Pat & Hugh Loughran
Followed by Adoration
3:30 pm Benediction and Reposition
5:00 pm Community Meal (Hall)
6:30 pm Confessions
7:00 pm Mass - †Erma Barbisan
Requested by Veronica Koor and Ushers
Followed by Adoration
9:00 pm Benediction & Reposition

SATURDAY 4TH

10:00 am Mass - †Lucy Lobo
Requested by the family
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - †Ricardo, Tarsila, Gini Campagnolo
Requested by the family

SUNDAY 5TH

9:00 am Mass - †Albert Di Biattista
Requested by Franca & Rino Barbisan
11:00 am Mass – For the People of the Parish